

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed on April 22, 2004, and the references cited therewith.

Claims 1-4, 7, 12, 26 and 30 are amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-34 are now pending in this application. The amendments to the claims are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. No new matter is introduced. The amendments are made to clarify the claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Support for claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 26, and 30 is found in the specification, for example, at page 3, lines 15-17.

Claims 2 and 3 are amended in line with the language of claim 1.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 26 and 30 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 8-11, 13-21, 27-29 and 31-34 were rejected because they depend on the rejected claims.

Claims 1-4, 7, 12, 26 and 30 are amended to clarify these claims. Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of these rejections to claims 1-34, and reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-3 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 5-9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,976,930.

Claims 4-34 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 35-56 of U.S. Patent No. 6,624,021.

To expedite prosecution of the instant application, without addressing the merits of these rejections, Applicant respectfully submits a terminal disclaimer and the requisite fee. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of these rejections of claims 1-34, and reconsideration and allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 371-2157 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

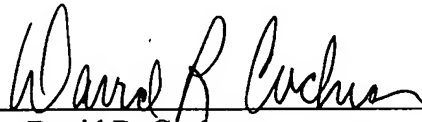
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By his Representatives,

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Date 22 July 2004

By

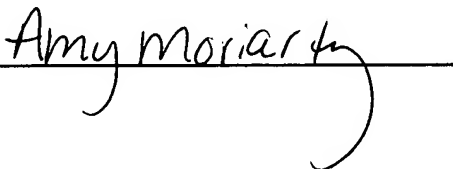


David R. Cochran

Reg. No. 46,632

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 22nd day of July, 2004.

Name



Signature

